

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-18, and 20-23 are currently pending. Claim 9 has been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

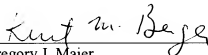
This amendment is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312, which permits entry of amendments after allowance and before payment of the issue fee, upon recommendation of the primary examiner. See MPEP 714.16.

Claim 9 has been amended to correct minor informalities discovered upon Applicants review of the Examiner's Amendment to Claim 9 set forth in the Notice of Allowability. The changes to Claim 9 do not affect the scope of that claim. Further, the proposed amended Claim 9 is not believed to require additional search or examination because it merely corrects minor informalities. Because the present claims are allowed, the proposed claims are believed to be allowable.

Based on the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendment is needed for proper protection of the invention, and requires no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the office.<sup>2</sup> Entry of this amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

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<sup>2</sup>See MPEP 714.16 stating that when amendments "are shown (A) to be needed for proper disclosure or protection of the invention, and (B) to require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office, they may be considered and, if proper, entry may be recommended by the primary examiner."